

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of the claims, as shown below pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the Application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the benefit of end users in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to at least one end user, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:

a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide energy to the at least one end user, processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first end-user set data;

b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first end-user set data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers; and

c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with

each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval.

Claims 2-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 1 in which the moderating computer designates at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

45. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 1 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at least one end user.

46. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 1 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating computer to consider the bid valid.

Claim 47. (Cancelled)

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48. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 46 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at least one end user.

49. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 1 in which the moderating computer transmits historical energy usage data associated with the at least one end user to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

50. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 1 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

Claims 51-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 1 in which at least a first designated Provider is designated by the moderating computer to supply a specific quantity or block of energy.

Claim 56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously Added) A method for creating an automated bidding process among

energy Providers for the benefit of end users in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to at least one end user, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:

- a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide energy to the at least one end user, processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first end-user set data;
- b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first end-user set data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers;
- c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval; and
- d. in the moderating computer, or in a first DISCO serving the at least one end user, or in an independent meter reading service entity, transmitting periodic usage reports associated with the at least one end user to at least a first designated Provider.

58. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 57 in which the moderating computer designates at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

59. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 57 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at least one end user.

60. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 57 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating computer to consider the bid valid.

Claim 61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 60 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at least one end user.

63. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 57 in which the moderating computer

transmits historical energy usage data associated with the at least one end user to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

Claim 64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 57 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

Claims 66-91. (Cancelled)

92. (Previously Added) A method for conducting an automated bidding process among a plurality of energy Providers for the benefit of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, comprising:

- a. collecting, from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, bids to provide energy to at least one end user;
- b. processing the bids that apply to the at least one end user in accordance with the auction rules;
- c. distributing at least a portion of processed bid information to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers;
- d. designating, on the basis of the processed bid information, at least

one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval; and

e. making available periodic usage reports associated with the at least one end user to at least a first designated Provider, thereby enabling the at least a first designated Provider to adjust its energy supply during at least a portion of the specific future time interval in which the at least a first designated Provider supplies at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility.

93. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 92 in which at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers are designated, on the basis of the processed bid information, to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

94. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 92 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at least one end user.

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95. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 92 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the bid to be considered valid.

Claim 96. (Cancelled)

97. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 95 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at least one end user.

98. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 92 in which historical energy usage data associated with the at least one end user is distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

99. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 92 in which each of Steps a. - e. is accomplished by means of computer processing.

Claim 100. (Cancelled)

101. (Previously Added) A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the benefit of a set of end users served by a first DISCO, in which a



moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:

- a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide at least one standard unit or block of electric power to the set of end users, processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first DISCO data;
- b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first DISCO data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers; and
- c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval.

102. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 101 in which the moderating computer designates at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during

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the specific future time interval.

103. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 101 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.

104. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 101 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating computer to consider the bid valid.

Claim 105. (Cancelled)

106. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 104 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

Claims 107-109. (Cancelled)

110. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 101 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion of the processing and communications functions of the

moderating computer.

111. (Previously Added) A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the benefit of a set of end users served by a first DISCO, in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:

- a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide at least one standard unit or block of electric power to the set of end users, processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first DISCO data;
- b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first DISCO data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers;
- c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval; and
- d. in the moderating computer, or in the first DISCO, or in an

independent meter reading service entity, transmitting periodic usage reports associated with the set of end users to at least a first designated Provider.

112. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 111 in which the moderating computer designates at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

113. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 111 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.

114. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 111 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating computer to consider the bid valid.

Claim 115. (Cancelled)

116. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 114 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric

power each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

117. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 111 in which the moderating computer transmits historical energy usage data associated with the set of end users to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

Claims 118-119. (Cancelled)

120. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 111 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

Claims 121-145. (Cancelled)

146. (Previously Added) A method for conducting an automated bidding process among a plurality of energy Providers for the benefit of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, comprising:

- a. collecting, from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, bids to provide at least one standard unit or block of electric power to a set of end users served by a first DISCO;

- b. processing the bids that apply to the set of end users in accordance with the auction rules;
- c. distributing at least a portion of processed bid information to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers;
- d. designating, on the basis of the processed bid information, at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval; and
- e. making available periodic usage reports associated with the set of end users to at least a first designated Provider, thereby enabling the at least a first designated Provider to adjust its electric power supply during at least a portion of the specific future time interval in which the at least a first designated Provider supplies at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility.

147. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 146 in which at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers are designated, on the basis of the processed bid information, to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

148. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 146 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.

149. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 146 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the bid to be considered valid.

Claim 150. (Cancelled)

151. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 149 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

152. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 146 in which historical energy usage data associated with the set of end users is distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

153. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 146 in which each of Steps a. – e. is accomplished by means of computer processing.

Claims 154-158. (Cancelled)

159. (Previously Added) A method for conducting an automated bidding process among a plurality of energy Providers for the benefit of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, comprising:

- a. collecting, from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, bids to provide energy to at least one end user;
- b. processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules;
- c. distributing at least a portion of processed bid information to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers; and
- d. designating, on the basis of the processed bid information, at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval.

160. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 159 in which at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers are designated, on the basis of the processed bid information, to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-



user facility during the specific future time interval.

161. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 159 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at least one end user.

162. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 159 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the bid to be considered valid.

163. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 162 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at least one end user.

Claim 164. (Cancelled)

165. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 159 in which historical energy usage data associated with the at least one end user is distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

166. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 159 in which each of Steps a. - d. is

accomplished by means of computer processing.

167. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 159 in which at least a portion of the processed bid information is distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers subsequent to the designating of at least a first designated Provider to provide energy to the at least one end user.

Claim 168. (Cancelled)

169. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 159 in which the bids to provide energy include bids to provide at least one standard unit or block of electric power to the at least one end user.

170. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 169 in which at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers are designated, on the basis of the processed bid information, to provide electric power to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

171. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 169 in which the designated Providers, when their respective commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power

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required to supply 100% of the energy needs of the at least one end user.

172. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 169 in which the auction rules specify that all bids indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at least one end user.

Claims 173-182. (Cancelled)

183. (Previously Added) A method of Claim 101 in which the moderating computer transmits historical energy usage data associated with the set of end users to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

Claims 184-186. (Cancelled)